

Lies You Believe

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Lie – People are basically good at heart.

Certainly, there is an element of goodness and badness within each of us. If this were not so, it would be easy to conclude that people are either good or bad, but the extremes of good and evil within us leave an open door for debate. To argue for the goodness of humanity, we might use the example of a blind man walking towards a cliff. If we were evil, we would want to see him fall, but there is an element of good inside us. That's what the Bible teaches. We are told that "God created man in His own image" (Gen. 1:27).

Of course, the Bible says that humans sinned and became defiled, resulting in evil, but even after the entrance of sin, the Spirit of God continued to "strive with man" because we are made in His "image" (Gen. 6:3; 9:6). The Bible says that even those who don't believe in God "show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them" (Rom. 2:15). We all have some form of goodness working in us, as God uses our conscience to guide us into good choices.

James 1:17 tells us that "every good and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father." God is ultimately the source of all "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness" and more (Gal. 5:22). Any goodness that we have inside us comes from God, but any honest person cannot deny that there is also evil inside the human heart. Society has continually affirmed this fact.

All through history, great atrocities have been committed on large scales. While some like to accuse religion of being the perpetrator of the evils of society, communist countries like Russia, China, North Korea and more have killed countless millions of innocent people under their control. Genocides have occurred all through history, along with mass rape, institutionalized slavery, and more. If people are basically good, how could these great evils play such a significant role in the history of the world?

Still, we don't have to look at evil in a corporate sense to find its existence. On a more personal level, all of us can see its existence inside our own human heart. Unless we claim to be perfect, all of us can admit that we have seasons of anger, hatred, pride, lust, jealousy, greed, prejudice and more (See Matt. 15:19). All of us have heard the proverbial good and evil angel on our shoulder warring within us. Each of us have felt that internal struggle between good and evil—right and wrong—as described in the Bible.

The apostle Paul admits what we have all at times experienced. He says, "I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good" (Rom. 7:22). Those who are honest will admit that even when we want to do good, a part of us loves sin and a part of us is drawn towards things that are not entirely good, so we live hypocritically. We tell lies, we look at pornography, and we lose our temper. We speak against guns, hatred, and evil, but we love to watch it in movies. Of course, no one is perfect.

The problem is, most of us think of our sins as "little sins" and so we tend to justify them, thinking

that we are 'basically good,' but God sees a bigger picture. For example, imagine that a doctor finds a small malignant tumor in your brain. You think it's so small that it can't hurt you, but the doctor knows it is deadly because it will grow and kill you. That's how sin is. We often think we are good because we only commit little sins. God looks at little white lies the way we look at rape or murder. Not that the two are the same, but they grow off the same tree.

All sins come from the same root. It's called the sinful heart. While some think they are basically good, hopefully we can at least all agree that we are far from perfect. Far from it! The difference is, some recognize this condition as a problem and want to fix it by turning to God. They admit that they are bad and accept the blame for their evils. Others excuse their falls and at times try to control them, but make no effort to give them up, claiming that their sins are part of the beauty of who they are. Claiming that people are basically good, they blame society and circumstance for the ills of human behavior.

So, the bottom line is, while God is striving inside each of us, inspiring us to do good, there is a sinful nature inside of us that naturally draws us to what the Bible refers to as sin, like lying, cheating, stealing, lust, pride and more. The sinful nature is why we are so far from perfect. The good news is, those who recognize this sinful nature as a problem can turn to Jesus Christ and have it cleansed. Jesus can wash away all your past guilt and give you power to overcome your sinful desires if you will just invite Him into your heart today.

Lie – The big bang and evolution are based on scientific fact, but creation is based on faith alone.

The teachings of the big bang and evolution are not based simply on facts any more than the belief in creation is based only on fact. Both require an element of faith, yet there is at least as much evidence for creation as there is for the big bang and evolutionary theories. While some scientists try to pawn off these theories as proven facts, this could not be further from the truth. The term 'theory' itself defies this reasoning, while common sense defies the logic of these theories. Let's consider the origins for a moment.

The big bang theory claims that billions of years ago, 'nothing' exploded, and the universe brought itself into existence. They say 'nothing' turned into a tiny dot of matter called a singularity, perhaps as small as the period at the end of a sentence, the dot began spinning, grew extremely hot, then exploded, and the universe came out of it! But what caused nothing to turn into something? What caused this dot of matter to explode? How did it get extremely hot? Why did it start spinning? How did all the laws of nature come into existence? The truth is, any honest scientist will admit that there is no evidence at the foundation of the big bang theory. It must simply be taken on faith.

Still, the big bang theory is not entirely accepted by faith. There is some evidence that scientists use to support their theory. Two main pieces of evidence that helped establish the big bang theory were the 1965 discovery of cosmic light particles in space by Penzias and Wilson, and the expanding universe discovery by

the Hubble telescope in 1929. Since the earth is expanding, science reversed the scenario, retracting the universe, concluding that the universe must have once been a small dot. Science also claims that light particles in space confirm the explosion of the big bang. While some claim these scientific discoveries are evidence of the big bang, these discoveries perfectly describe the biblical account of how God created the universe.

The truth is, before science discovered these facts, the Bible said that God created the universe with the words, "Let there be light," then He "stretched out the heavens," expanding the universe (Gen. 1:2; Isa. 45:12). The Bible says God "spreads," or "stretches out the heaven," as an ongoing process (Job 9:8; Isa. 44:24). This is repeated throughout the Bible, in the context of creation. Long before science discovered the evidence, the Bible said the universe was created with light rays in space when God spread out space.

These scientific facts so accurately described the biblical account of creation that astrophysicist, Robert Jastrow said, astronomers have "painted themselves into a corner because they have proven, by their own methods, that the world began abruptly in an act of creation" (*Christianity Today*, August 6, 1982, p. 15). While science and Christianity are looking at the same facts, the Bible spoke of these findings before science discovered them, giving the Bible more credibility.

In addition, the theory of evolution tries to build off of the big bang theory, suggesting that a living cell may have been brought to life when lightning struck a puddle of chemicals, from which all species gradually